

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 20-31 are pending in the application, with 20, 24, and 28 being the independent claims. Claims 1-19 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 24-31 are sought to be added claiming subject matter previously considered and allowed by the Examiner. Hence, Applicants submit that new claims 24-31 do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration or search. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,578,197 to Percy *et al.* ("Percy") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,502,238 to Pavan *et al.* ("Pavan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,823,299 to Contreras *et al.* ("Contreras"). (See Office Action, page 3). The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Percy in view of Pavan in view of Contreras and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,857,106 to Barbour *et al.* ("Barbour"). (See Office Action, page 15). The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Percy in view of Pavan in view of Contreras in view of Barbour and further in view of

U.S. Patent No. 6,584,489 to Jones *et al.* ("Jones"). (See Office Action, page 16). The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Peercy in view of Barbour in view of Contreras. (See Office Action, page 17).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-19, Applicants have canceled claims 1-19 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein to place the allowed claims 20-23 and new claims 24-31 in a position for issuance. Therefore, Applicants consider Examiner's rejection of claims 1-19 to have been rendered moot.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the allowability of claims 20-23.

***New Claims 24-31***

New claims 24-31 are sought to be added based on the subject matter previously considered by the Examiner and allowed in claims 20-23. Claims 24-27 are system claims that correspond to the allowed computer-based method claims 20-23. Claims 28-31 are computer program product claims that correspond to the allowed computer-based method claims 20-23. Since new claims 24-31 comprise of allowable subject matter of claims 20-23, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 24-31 are in position for allowance. Additionally, as the subject matter claimed in the new claims 24-31 has been

previously considered by the Examiner, no new search and/or consideration is therefore required.

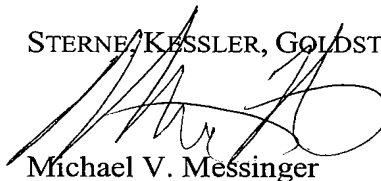
### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michael V. Messinger  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 37,575

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

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